

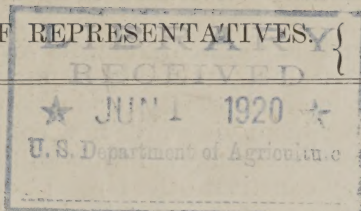
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66TH CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
2d Session. }

REPORT  
No. 902.



## EXPERIMENT VINEYARDS NEAR FRESNO AND OAKVILLE, CALIF.

APRIL 28, 1920.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HAUGEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 13402.]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13402) for the purchase of land occupied by experiment vineyards near Fresno and Oakville, Calif., having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass. The bill reported herewith is as follows:

A BILL For the purchase of land occupied by experiment vineyards near Fresno and Oakville, Calif.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, authorized to purchase and acquire the lands occupied by the department's experiment vineyards near Fresno and Oakville, California, now maintained under contracts with the owners of said lands: *Provided,* That the land purchased for the Fresno vineyard shall not exceed twenty acres, at a cost not to exceed \$12,000, and for the Oakville vineyard not to exceed twenty acres, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000; for the payment of which the sum of \$27,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

The experiment vineyards which it is proposed to purchase have been maintained and developed by the Department of Agriculture during the past 15 years. These vineyards were established on lands owned by private persons for the purpose of developing grape stocks that would resist phylloxera, a disease that was then sweeping the grape-producing areas. The plantings have been made progressively and the land has been occupied and utilized by the Department of Agriculture under agreements with the owners, without rental, the owners furnishing the necessary labor, equipment, live stock, etc., and being reimbursed by the department for the actual cost thereof. The owners of these lands have been engaged in the production of wine grapes on a large scale. The arrangements, when made, contemplated the continuance of the then existing and steadily enlarging wine and brandy industry, in which the owners of the land were engaged.



Much of the experimentation, however, was with grapes intended for raisins, currants, and table grape utilization in addition to those grown for wine and brandy production.

These experiment vineyards now contain approximately 700 varieties of grape stocks collected from all the vine-growing regions of the world. They constitute the largest and most valuable collection of grape varieties now known to exist. Their value for experimental and scientific purposes can not readily be estimated.

By reason of the adoption and enforcement of the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution, the owners of these lands are going out of the business of producing wine grapes and are subdividing their properties and selling them in small tracts. Unless these experiment vineyards are purchased by the United States, the work of 15 years of experimentation by the Department of Agriculture and these valuable collections of grape varieties from all over the world will become a total loss.

The committee is of the opinion that it would be false economy to fail to make the necessary appropriation to acquire these properties and that, with their acquisition, the work of the department during the past 15 years will be preserved for the benefit of the grape growers of the country and the department will be enabled to carry on experiments for the purpose of developing new uses of wine grapes and discovering new products into which wine grapes can be manufactured, thus probably saving a great industry now threatened with destruction.

